inadmissible expensive drugs etc., the Authorised Medical Attendant is not authorized to prescribe it.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

AIDS vaccine

1303. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is on the verge of coming out with AIDS vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any time-frame to market such a vaccine at affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are two HIV sub-type 'C' candidate AIDS vaccines which are under the process of development in India namely; (i) HIV-1 sub-type 'C' DNA vaccine being developed at the National HIV Reference Centre, Deptt. of Microbiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under the Prime Minister's 'Jai Vigyan' Mission Programme. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has funded this programme. The candidate vaccine has still to undergo pre-clinical toxicity testing in animals and (ii) Modified Vaccinia Ankara multi-epitope candidate vaccine has been developed under a tripartite agreement between Indian Council of Medical Research-National AIDS Control Organisation and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, USA. The work is being carried out by National AIDS Research Instt., Pune. The pre-clinical trials are being carried out in a biotech company in the USA. The National AIDS Research Institute is making preparations for Phase-I clinical trials which will be conducted after toxicity and immunogenicity tests are completed and the regulatory approvals have been obtained.

(c) At this stage, no definite time frame for marketing ofAIDS vaccines can be spelt out.